

January 12, 1984

LR 10

lottery is a better control and the proceeds from the lottery or whatever, the pickles, whatever it is that they start should remain locally because we would have better control and enforcement of any lotteries that the Douglas County Board or any any other board in the State of Nebraska should decide to have. So I will support Senator Morehead's amendment but I cannot in good conscience support LR 10 that would establish a state lottery with all the revenue going to the general fund. Thank you very much.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, I believe that this is a good amendment. This problem came to our attention when we were holding several hearings on the Bingo and Pickle Card Commission and also on the bingo laws that we have in Nebraska. I don't know whether Senator Chambers is correct or not in the interpretation of what he was telling us but according to the legal counsel of the Bingo and Pickle Card Commission they interpret it that you must be in existence for five years and in researching this we find that when we transferred the duties of regulating bingo from the Revenue Department to the State Treasurer's Office that the State Treasurer's Office just didn't take the time to investigate those that were applying for bingo licenses and so they issued one to anybody that applied. When we passed a law creating the Bingo and Pickle Card Commission they became a little more thorough in their investigation and they ruled that you had to be in existence for five years or longer to be issued a bingo license and I understand the reason that we have this in the Constitution like this is because the people felt that they didn't want any fly-by-nights operating these bingo games and I understand that this was passed in the '60s. That would be quite a while back. This was when we had the constitutional amendment to allow bingo in Nebraska and so I think Senator Morehead is doing the right thing by saying that if these branches, these organizations that apply for a bingo license now, if they belong to a national affiliated group well they should be allowed to have it and I think this would be going the right direction. As to the resolution itself, I think that this is probably a good idea and a good way to go because we would give the people an opportunity to vote on the issue whether we wanted state or local lotteries. Many